A

CALL

(5.)

to the

OFFICERS

of the

ARMY,

AND

All good Hearts, to ſtand upon their Watch; And in all meekneſſe and ſobriety to plead for the Intereſt of the People of God, and for the juſt Liberties of theſe Nations.

From diverſe of their Antient Friends and Comrades, that are lovers of Peace and Righteouſneſſe.

Printed 1658.

A CALL to the Officers of the Army, &c.

From divers of their ancient Friends and Comrades, that are lovers of Peace and Righteouſneſs.

IT hath been and is the grand deſigne of Sathan, the old deceiver, to raiſe up ſtrong and complicated oppoſitions againſt the work of Reformation; And we are not ignorant, that he faſhions his ſnares and deceipts ſo curiouſly, and twiſts and inſinuates himſelf ſo ſubtilly, that he makes uſe of the very Inſtruments of that work, at once to hinder and to undermine it. It is a damp to our ſpirits to conſider, that the ſun of glory, which had advanced it ſelf ſo far in this our Meridian, ſhould go back ſo many degrees on the Diall of theſe Nations: and that from ſuch ſplendid hopes, as once there were, by reaſon of groſs and thick interpoſitions, it ſhould tend almoſt to an univerſall Eclipſe. We know not, where the remora and Obſtruction is, nor is it our purpoſe to fix the blame upon any: But we lay our hands upon our hearts, and accuſe our own vanity and folly, and uneven walkings, that have been the cauſe of depriving us of ſo rich a mercy. We cannot but with grief take notice of the unhappy diſunions and differences, that have been, and are yet amongſt thoſe

who ſhould cloſe together in moſt intimate oneneſſe: For the diviſions of the people of God there are at this day great thoughts of heart; and we muſt not ſo much as hope for the happineſs of Halcion days, untill they return and embrace each other in love and harmony. It is too too evident, that the malignant party are buſie, and combining together to enſlave us; and they have now freſh blooming hopes, that this is their time to appear for the bringing back of that rejected Line, and for the raiſing of themſelves up again in our downfall. Nor could they have ſuch ſtrong confidences, were they not confederate with that ſoure, ridgid, diſcontented party, whom nothing will pleaſe, unleſſe they can glut themſelves by ſetting their foot on our necks: Who though they once conteſted againſt that old Royall Intereſt, yet now they cannot poſſibly fancy a laſting ſettlement, but by recalling him in again upon their own terms. This flame alſo is blown up by thoſe, who whet their biting and imbittered tongues for miſchief againſt us, who prepare ſcourges for our backs. And becauſe we walk in a track different from them, and ſeperate from them and the world, in things of ſpirituall concernment; they are enraged, and deviſe deviſes againſt us, and ſtrongly endeavour to erect their own Dominion in our cruſhing and extirpation. The great Engine, which all parties make uſe of, to gratifie at once this their Ambition and enmity, is, the vaſt diſtance, conteſts, and diviſions, that are unhappily crept in amongſt us; whileſt we lye ſcattered as

Corn

Corn in the Feild, not bound up in ſheaves; whileſt we are dwelling in diſtinct Iſlands, not entertaining commerce with each other: And whileſt we ſpeak, or rather babble out different voices & languages, to our own confuſion, & the diſhonour of our Maſter. Is it not then high time to awaken, and to raiſe our ſelves from the bed of ſloth and ſecurity? Should we not unite together in love and ſweetneſs? Should we not humble our ſelves before our God? Should we not pray? believe, confer, and take counſell together, as in the dayes of old, when the bleſſed preſence of the Lord was like freſh ſprings of water in our ſouls? Should we not conſider from whence we are fallen, and repent, and do our firſt works, and remember the loves of our Virginity? Theſe we think, are things proper and ſuiteable unto the preſent times we live in. Surely, we are begirt with dangers from all ſides: ſurely, the judgments of the Lord are already gon out againſt us; and they ſound a loud and dread. full alarum in our ears: If we yet be ſtupid, and not take warning, and return unto the Lord, we may juſtly expect the full viols of his wrath to be emptied out upon us. In ſuch an extraordinary day, as this is, we conceive, that there is a more than ordinary duty incumbent on us. The moſt fine gold is become dimme, and hath contracted the mixture of much droſs: The moſt glorious cauſe, which at the beginning brake forth freſh and vigorous, and appeared like a Bride decked with ornaments, is now become ſullied, being faded in its beauty; and is ſo chan-

ged, and miſhapen with a ſtrange dreſſe, we had almoſt ſaid, with the attire of an Harlot, that we have at once both loſt our ſelves and our full-grown hopes, whileſt in vain we endeavour to finde it. We have been all made drunk, as it were with ſweet wine, through the confluence of earthly enjoyments, and delights: And we have not onely deſerted the work put into our hands, but we have ſo blemiſhed it, that we have given our Adverſaries advantages thereby, as well to blaſpheme, as to rejoyce. It is as hard now to know what we have to doe in this doubtfull juncture, as it is eaſie to ſee; that we are out of the way, and have loſt the foot-ſteps of that glorious preſence, which heretofore conducted us. We will open our very hearts unto you, becauſe we can ſay, through grace, that we endeavour to keep a good conſcience, void of offence both towards God, and towards man. We muſt needs ſay, that we would not have the Authority and Kingdome of our Lord Jeſus ſlighted and neglected: We would not have ſuperſtitions and falſe worſhips creep up again, and appear in publique, uncontrouled; We would not have the Conſciences of our fellow-brethren burden'd, and under the yokes of rigid impoſitions: We would not have Tyranny, Oppreſſion, and Injuſtice, ſo much as ſeen amongſt us in any of their ſhapes and appearances; We would not have the prophane ſpirit of the world gratified in their exceſſes, and in their paſtimes not ſuteable to a well-guided Common-wealth; we would not have the juſt Liberties of the Nation trampled on by any, nor under the footſtool of an Arbitrary diſpoſall: If in theſe things we offend,

fend, we are ſorry, and if we are convinced there-of, we ſhall amend. Sure we are, it was once the main deſigne, to extirpate every thing that ſtood in the way of a through Reformation. It was once the great principle, that ſwayed our actings, to advance the beſt things, and to entruſt the management of them in the hands of the beſt, and moſt upright perſons. But how far we have warped, and deflected from theſe things, Let all ſober unprejudiced ſpirits, that doe not willingly ſhut their eyes, be the judges. Be not diſpleaſed then, that we call upon you to ſtand in the good old way, and to return into that path, where the Lord met you and owned you, and diſplayed his marvellous loving kindneſſes, and his triumphant excellencies before your eys. Remember that the Vows of God are upon you; if through your remiſneſſe and inadvertency rüine over take us, we ſhall have an hiding place in the chambers of divine love, in the midſt of thoſe deſolations: But what comfort you can have, that you have not diſcharged the duty incumbent on you, in this day of danger, whileſt an opportunity was in your hands to do it; we now lay it upon your Conſciences to conſider, before it is yet too late. The Lord poure out upon us richly the ſpirit of love and of unanimity; the ſpirit of courage and of activity, the ſpirit of wiſdome and zeal; that the ſun of glory may again viſite us, and aſcend unto its perfect height and ſplendour: That we may doe worthily for God, and for his people in our generations: And that the undoubted Rights and Liberties of theſe Nations may be fixt upon the laſting durable foundation of Truth and Righteouſneſſe.

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